

Congressman Ryan Hails Subcommittee Action on Energy and Water Appropriations Bill

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(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17), a member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee on Appropriations, applauded the House Appropriations Sub-Committee for passing the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill for FY 2009. The bill contains over \$6 million in projects for the district. Action is still pending by the full House, Senate and President.

“As a member of the subcommittee which wrote this bill, I am proud to announce that our hard work has paid off with legislation that brings over \$6 million in federal funds back to our community,” said Congressman Ryan. **“These projects will spur new research and development at our colleges, improve our sewer and water infrastructure, and help produce new products that will be manufactured here and create jobs.”**

The bill includes \$2 million to create a Center for Renewable Energy Systems at Youngstown State University and provides \$1.5 million for an advanced energy program at the University of Akron.

A full list is included below:

· **YSU Center for Renewable Energy Systems (CERES): \$2,000,000** The Center for Efficiency in Renewable Energy Systems will be an interdisciplinary industry-university center that integrates engineering design with energy systems analysis to improve the energy utilization of today's manufacturing industry and tomorrow's alternative energy industry. The Center will translate YSU's energy research efforts into practical application for industrial needs.

· **University of Akron Fuel Cell for Clean Coal Power Plants: \$1,500,000** Researchers at the University of Akron (UA) have been working several years to demonstrate the technical feasibility of building a 5-kilowatt scale coal fuel cell that can economically convert high sulfur coal into electricity with near zero negative environmental impact. UA is currently in the process of building the coal fuel cell and has developed all the technology necessary. The 5kW fuel cell is expected to be completed during summer 2008. Federal funds are requested for the second phase of UA's coal fuel cell effort. Now that the 5kW is nearly complete, support is needed to implement the design and construction of a mid-size scale demonstration (250kW) pilot-plant fuel cell with participation by industries.

· **Alpha Micron Adaptive Liquid Crystal Display: \$1,000,000** The goal of the Adaptive Liquid Crystal Windows project is to create a film which can be used for commercial and residential windows. The program will develop a manufacturable system based on variable liquid crystal display technology that meets the market assigned specifications. Using its in-house capability for material synthesis, product engineering and liquid crystal film manufacturing, AlphaMicron will create a liquid crystal-based film where its visible light transmission can be altered from 70% to 30% by application of a voltage from a solar cell. This technology will be used as the light valve component of Adaptive Window. This development will be the first of its kind since currently all variable liquid crystal technologies are on flat glass substrates.

· **Wick District-Smokey Hollow Development (WD-SH) Infrastructure Improvements: \$550,000** □ This complex urban initiative is a cornerstone project in Youngstown's revitalization. The Wick District-Smokey Hollow Development program is the first large-scale mixed-use project seen in this city in many decades. Its central location promotes collaboration, revitalization, and economic development. The project requires that all existing infrastructure must be replaced to prepare for construction and expansion of residential, commercial, office, and industrial operations within the Wick District.

· **Little Squaw Creek Interceptor: \$675,000** Phase II of the Little Squaw Creek Interceptor Sewer Project involves the construction of a sewage pumping station and 1,700 linear feet of 10-inch sanitary sewer line along State Route 193 in southern Vienna Township. Phase II of this project is a vital link between Phase I to the south in Liberty Township, and future phases to the north in Vienna Township. Besides serving individual homes with failing septic systems, Phase II of the project will also provide sanitary sewer service to several businesses along State Route 193 that have expressed interest in sewer service in order to expand and create new employment opportunities in the area.

· **Streetsboro Trunk Sewer Improvements: \$1,600,000** □□ The project will improve and replace two sections of failing sanitary sewer line within the City of Streetsboro. The existing sewers in these areas are operating at a fraction of their full capacity and are known to overflow during storm events. The County plans to replace approximately 14,000 linear feet of sewer line, 54 manholes, and 39 lateral reconnections in the northeast quadrant of the City and in the Industrial Park off of Mondial Parkway. These two sections of sewer line must be replaced to improve service to existing residential and industrial development, and protect water quality within the Tinkers Creek watershed, which is part of the larger Cuyahoga River watershed.

· **Campbell Brownfield Revitalization Program: \$700,000** The city of Campbell collaborated with the CASTLO Community Improvement Corporation, Mahoning County and the neighboring communities of Struthers and Youngstown to form the Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity (MRCO), a 1,470-acre brownfield site that for the first three quarters of the 20th century was the home to two fully integrated steel mills: the former Republic Steel Corporation's Youngstown Works, and the former Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company's Campbell and Struthers Works. MRCO adopted a master plan which has a primary economic development goal to create job opportunities for residents of the region and to strengthen the tax base of MRCO member communities. The plan presents a long-term development strategy which identifies needed future infrastructure (roadway and utility) improvements, including approximately 5,000 lineal feet of 12-inch sanitary sewer lines to serve in excess of 1,000,000 square feet of existing building space and over 100 acres of developable land. Providing the proposed sanitary sewer improvements are made, the MRCO Master Plan indicates the property could accommodate at least 20 development sites which could collectively accommodate nearly 1,000 employees and generate an estimated \$650,000 annually in both property and income taxes, thus supporting important community services.